

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A device for removing solids from a fluid containment space, said device comprising:

a hood operative to be arranged or ~~intended to be arranged~~ at a bottom surface of the fluid containment space,

at least one inlet opening ~~being~~ provided on a first side of the hood for allowing fluid communication from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood to an inner space of the hood, ~~the device further comprising~~

drain means for withdrawing fluids and fluidized solids from the inner space of the hood, and

flushing means for directing flushing fluid via the fluid containment space exterior of the hood towards said at least one inlet opening, ~~wherein~~

at least one outlet opening ~~is~~ provided on said first side of the hood on a level above ~~the a~~ respective inlet opening for allowing fluid communication from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood, and ~~that the hood is provided with~~

means for directing fluids through ~~the a~~ respective outlet opening on said first side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space.

2. (previously amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said directing means is arranged to direct fluids through the respective outlet opening on said first side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in a direction essentially opposite the flushing direction of the flushing means arranged on the first side of the hood.

3. (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, further comprising: wherein at least one inlet opening ~~is~~ provided on a second side of the hood opposite the first side thereof for allowing fluid communication from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood to the inner space of the hood,

flushing means ~~being provided~~ for directing flushing fluid via the fluid containment space exterior of the hood towards said at least one inlet opening on the second side of the hood, ~~and~~ at least one outlet opening ~~being~~ provided on said second side of the hood on a level above the respective inlet opening for allowing fluid communication from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood, and ~~that the hood is provided with~~ means for directing fluids through the respective outlet opening on said second side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space.

4. (previously amended) The device according to claim 3, wherein said directing means is arranged to direct fluids through the respective outlet opening on said second side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in a direction

essentially opposite the flushing direction of the flushing means arranged on the second side of the hood.

5. (previously amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the hood is elongated having an inverted V-shape as seen in cross-section.

6. (previously amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the respective outlet opening is provided between a side wall of the hood and a top part of the hood.

7. (previously amended) The device according to claim 6, wherein said directing means is constituted by a lower surface of the top part.

8. (currently amended) A separator, comprising:
a separator vessel; ~~and wherein a device according to claim 1 is provided at the bottom surface of the separator vessel~~

a device for removing solids from a fluid containment space, the device comprising a hood operative to be arranged at a bottom surface of the fluid containment space, at least one inlet opening provided on a first side of the hood for allowing fluid communication from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood to an inner space of the hood, drain means for withdrawing fluids and fluidized solids from the inner space of the hood, flushing means for directing flushing fluid via the fluid containment space exterior of the hood towards said at least one inlet opening, at least one outlet opening is provided on said first side of the hood on a level above a respective inlet opening for allowing fluid communication from the inner space of the

hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood, and means for directing fluids through a respective outlet opening on said first side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space.

9. (currently amended) A method for removing solids from a fluid containment space, the method comprising:

directing wherein flushing fluid ~~is directed~~ by flushing means towards at least one inlet opening on a first side of a hood arranged at a bottom surface of the fluid containment space so as to force fluids and fluidized solids from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood into an inner space of the hood,

withdrawing wherein a part of the fluids entering the inner space of the hood ~~is~~ withdrawn by drain means, and

making that another part of said fluids ~~is made~~ to flow from the inner space of the hood back to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space through at least one outlet opening provided on said first side of the hood on a level above the respective inlet opening.

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:
directing wherein fluids ~~are directed~~ through the respective outlet opening on said first side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in a direction essentially opposite the flushing direction of the flushing means arranged on

the first side of the hood.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

directing wherein flushing fluid ~~is directed~~ by flushing means towards at least one inlet opening on a second side of the hood opposite the first side thereof so as to force fluids and fluidized solids from the fluid containment space exterior of the hood into the inner space of the hood, and

making that a part of the fluids entering the inner space of the hood ~~is made~~ to flow from the inner space of the hood back to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in an essentially horizontal direction or in a direction towards the bottom surface of the fluid containment space through at least one outlet opening provided on said second side of the hood on a level above the respective inlet opening.

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

directing wherein fluids ~~are directed~~ through the respective outlet opening on said second side of the hood from the inner space of the hood to the fluid containment space exterior of the hood in a direction essentially opposite the flushing direction of the flushing means arranged on the second side of the hood.

13. (currently amended) The method according to ~~claim~~ claim 9, further comprising:

making wherein the flushing means during a first mild flushing mode ~~are made~~ to jet flushing fluid at such a rate that the circulation of fluids between the fluid containment space exterior of the hood and the inner space of the hood will essentially only affect the fluids in the

lower part of the fluid containment space and leave the fluids in the upper part of the fluid containment space essentially unaffected by the circulation.

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 13, further comprising:
making wherein the flushing means during a second heavy flushing mode ~~are made~~ to jet flushing fluid at a higher rate than during the mild flushing mode.